



Date: February 16, 2021

To: Members, Senate Governance and Finance Committee

From: Dustin Weatherby, Policy Advocate

Subject: SUPPORT for SB 274 (Wieckowski), as introduced on January 29, 2021

The California Taxpayers Association is pleased to support SB 274, which would require local agencies to email all relevant meeting agendas and documents constituting the agenda packet if a person requests the item be sent via email. CalTax supports the bill for the following reasons:

Increases Transparency. SB 274 will increase public transparency of local agency meetings. Currently, local agencies mail agendas and packets to persons requesting the documents. Under this system, there is no guarantee the mailed packets will reach citizens in time before the meeting. This bill will provide the public an increased opportunity to access public documentation.

Improves Government Efficiency. SB 274 will make local governments more efficient by allowing vital resources to be used elsewhere. Implementing this commonsense solution will have a considerable impact on taxpayer dollars by eliminating postage costs and saving employees time that otherwise would be used to prepare mailing packets.

Our state and local governments should give residents the option to receive documents electronically whenever possible and practical. To the extent that SB 274 results in more Californians receiving documents electronically, it also will eliminate wasteful situations in which hard-copy documents are mailed to addresses long after those who initially requested the documents have moved.

For these reasons, CalTax is pleased to support SB 274.

cc: The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, California State Senate